

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Strategic Development Committee

February 25, 2011

Present: Fred Ricci, James White, Paul Harden, Susan O'Donnell, Wendy Kagan

Absent: Allen Durand, Betty Pleacher, Bob Cooper, Carmen Ferguson

Staff: Christine Grieco, Jen Buck, Shirley Winslow, Cristin Taylor

Guests: Wendy Mackie, Lisa DiRaimo

With a quorum present Chair Paul Harden called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Mr. Harden asked everyone to review the minutes of January 28, 2011.

VOTE: Mr. Ricci made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2011. Ms. O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report: Ms. Grieco presented the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-01 draft. Ms. Grieco explained the purpose of the draft was to set policy with respect to reimbursement to employers for training provided in an On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract. Ms. Grieco asked for a vote to recommend

the Local Area Workforce Notice: PY10-01 draft by the Strategic Development Committee and to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for a vote of approval.

VOTE: Ms. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-01 draft and forward it to the Executive Committee for their approval. Mr. Ricci seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Grieco presented the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-02 draft. Ms. Grieco explained the purpose was to provide information concerning approval of a waiver to exempt the credential attainment outcome in the credential performance measure calculation for the participants enrolled in On-the-Job Training. Ms. Grieco asked for a vote to recommend the Local Area Workforce Invest Notice: PY10-02 draft by the Strategic Development Committee and to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for a vote to approve.

VOTE: Mr. Harden made a motion to approve the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-02 draft and forward it to the Executive Committee for their approval. Ms. Kagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Grieco presented Local Area Workforce Notice: PY10-04 draft. Ms. Grieco explained that the policy places a cap on the

reimbursement amount to an employer. The reimbursement cannot exceed 125% of the state's average hourly wage as published in the Occupational Wage Report issued by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Market Informational Unit. As of the effective date of this policy, the state's average hourly wage is \$16.80. Therefore, the reimbursement amount from WPGRI cannot exceed \$21.00. The employer will provide a match according to the ratio scale. Ms. Grieco asked for a vote to recommend the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-04 draft by the Strategic Development Committee and to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for a vote to approve.

VOTE: Mr. Ricci made a motion to approve the Local Area Workforce Investment Notice: PY10-04 draft and forward it to the Executive Committee for their approval. Ms. O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Guest: Mr. Harden introduced Wendy Mackie. Ms. Mackie did a presentation on the Marines Trades Industry Partnership. Ms. Mackie noted the companies in the Marine Industry are always looking for workers. Workers with all kinds of different skill sets are in demand for good paying, year round jobs. Ms. Mackie discussed for students there are many specialized training sessions to full academic programs. The Marine industry plays a major part in the life of every city and town that surrounds Narragansett Bay. With its proximity to the East coast, Canadian and even European markets, the Marine

Industry is a natural economic engine for Rhode Island.

Update: Mr. Harden noted the on going quest for a Co-Chair for the Strategic Committee.

New Business: Mr. Harden noted there needs to be a reaching out to market OJT to the Trades Industry.

Old Business: There is no old business to come before the Strategic Committee

VOTE: Ms. Kagan made a motion to adjourn the Strategic Committee meeting. Mr. Ricci seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am. The next meeting will be Friday, April 15, 2011.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Winslow**